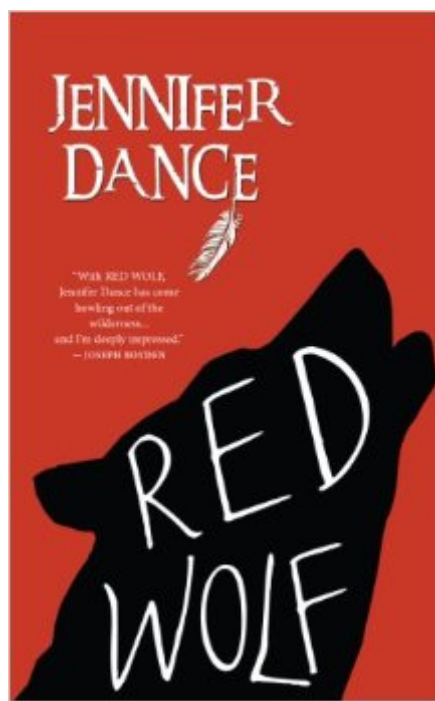


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# Red Wolf



## Synopsis

Life is changing for Canada's Anishnaabe Nation and for the wolf packs that share their territory. In the late 1800s, both Native people and wolves are being forced from the land. Starving and lonely, an orphaned timber wolf is befriended by a boy named Red Wolf. But under the Indian Act, Red Wolf is forced to attend a residential school far from the life he knows, and the wolf is alone once more. Courage, love and fate reunite the pair, and they embark on a perilous journey home. But with winter closing in, will Red Wolf and Crooked Ear survive? And if they do, what will they find?

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,100,209 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 10

## Customer Reviews

RED WOLF is a heart-rending and enthralling story set in Canada in the 1800s about the impact of the Indian Act of 1876 upon the Indian culture along with the compulsory residential school system for Indian children. Red Wolf is just five years old when he is removed from his parents and everything that was familiar and taken to a boarding school for Indian children only. The main focus of the school is to assimilate the children by forcing them to lose their own culture. Sadly most of the people who ran these schools under the blessings of their church were less than Christian to the children. ["There was barely enough space for a small boy to turn around, and if he had stood upright he would hit his head on the ceiling. Everything in his body yelled move, run, get away, be free. But he was trapped like an animal in a cage. Even more than the ache in his cramped limbs,](#)

Red Wolf ached for his mother. Tears came just at the thought of her. He rocked back and forth, clutching his knees to his chest. He was utterly alone, utterly abandoned. From all over Canada children were taken away from their parents and most of them never saw their family again. The children had their traditional names taken from them, were banned from using their native language, told to give up their spiritual beliefs for the one true faith, in fact, they had to give up anything connected to their cultures. The children are told that they are "dirty savages" who must learn to conform to the "superior" white culture. Red Wolf is renamed George, and given a number, which is what he is mostly called at school. As the years pass, Red Wolf slowly "becomes" George, and learns English, the Christian religion and receives only cruelty from his teachers.

Set in the 1880s in the province of Ontario, the novel explores the impact of the Indian Act of 1876 on the indigenous peoples of Canada. It opens as a wolf cub, left on his own when his parents are killed by "uprights", is driven into an Anishnaabe camp by hunger. Happily, it is the camp of the Wolf Clan and the cub becomes the companion of a young boy, five-year-old Mishqua Ma'een'gun or Red Wolf. The 1880s in Ontario Canada is a time of expansion. As loggers move into the northern parts of the province, the Anishnaabe (the People) are left with the choice of moving further north away from the whites or stay and fight. A government agent offers them a third choice: move to the Reserve where they will, according to him, receive free housing and money for food. What he does not tell them is that, once they move to the Reserve, the government has complete control of their lives including the need for approval to leave the reserve for any reason. It also means that the children can be removed and put into Residential schools in an effort to "kill the Indian to save the man". Taken away from their parents often over long distances, the native pupils are denied their names, their language, their spiritual life, and their cultures and are told that they are "dirty savages" who must learn to assimilate into the "superior" white culture. The cub Crooked Ear's story parallels Red Wolf's. When Red Wolf is forced to go to the school, he must find a new pack to join. But food and habitat are both becoming scarce and wolves are hunted relentlessly for their pelts and because they are seen as pests. But even when Crooked Ear finds a new pack, he misses the boy - they may be seen only as pests and savages to others but they were equals within their own pack of two.

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